

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

*(attending by Webinar)*

Dr. Seth Harkins  
*Legislative Designee*

Dr. Robert Bloom  
*Gubernatorial Appointee*

Mr. Merlin Lehman  
*Gubernatorial Appointee*

Mr. Matt George  
*Legislative Designee*

Mr. Nathan Roth  
*DHS/DFCS*

Ms. Kathy Ward  
*DHS/DDD*

Ms. Carie Johnstone  
*Legislative Designee*  
Mr. Neal Takiff  
*Gubernatorial Appointee*

Ms. Sherry Bochenek  
*ISBE*  
Dr. Cesar Madrigal  
*Gubernatorial Appointee*

Mr. Mark Smith  
*DJJ*  
Dr. Constance Y. Williams  
*DHS/DMH*

Ms. Michelle Scott-Tervan  
*DHS/DRS*

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Kristine Herman  
*HFS*

Dr. Andrew Beaty  
*Gubernatorial Appointee*

Ms. Judith Levitan  
*OAG*

Ms. Kathy Briseno  
*Legislative Designee*

Ms. Alicia Ozier  
*DCFS*

**STAFF PRESENT**

Ms. Nancy Aguirre  
*Regional Coordinator*

Ms. Kristin Gharst  
*Regional Coordinator*

Ms. Juli Kartel  
*Regional Coordinator*

Ms. Lynn Lowder Coffey  
*Operations Manager*

Ms. Leah Guffey  
*Office Manager*

Ms. Debbi Smith  
*Executive Director*

Mr. Robert Watts  
*Regional Coordinator*

**LIAISONS PRESENT**

None

**GUESTS**

Barbara Moore  
*ISBE*

Uli Senz  
*Genesee Lake Schools*

## I. CALL TO ORDER

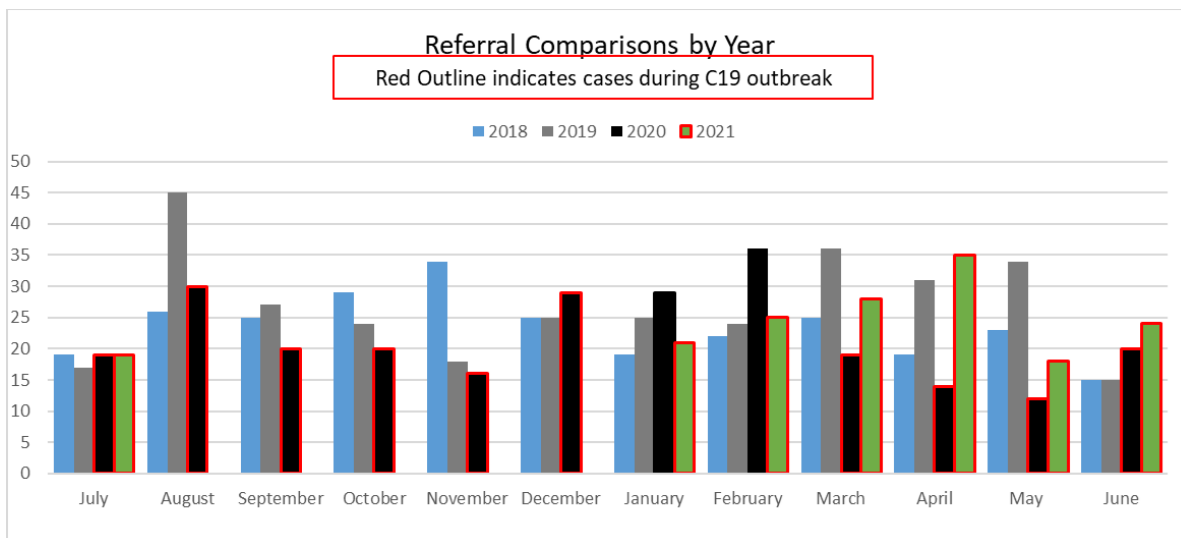
The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairperson Mr. Matt George. He welcomed Mr. Nathan Roth with the Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Community Services, Bureau of Youth Intervention Services. Nathan is also the CCBY's Program Administrator and Julie Stremlau's alternate.

## II. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 10, 2021 AUTHORITY MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the June 10, 2021 meeting with no revisions.

**MOTION:** *Dr. Constance Williams moved and Dr. Robert Bloom seconded that the minutes of the June 10, 2021 Authority meeting be approved. The motion carried unanimously.*

## III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT



### Director Statewide Partnering:

- On Sept 1st, Director Smith will be a presenting panelist for a webinar held by the ARC of Illinois discussing benefit info for people with disabilities
- On August 4th, Director Smith received an invitation to Join the Illinois Children's Mental Health Plan –Letter states: Treatment Workgroup the development of a new Children's Mental Health Plan for Illinois. Based on your extensive experience, we request your participation in this important effort as a member of the Treatment Workgroup. This workgroup is tasked with developing recommendations that will focus on addressing the needs of youth with mental, behavioral, or developmental disorders and their families with targeted interventions to address identified mental health concerns in the least restrictive

setting. Your workgroup will be led by two Co-Chairs: Ms. Regina Crider Dr. John Walkup, MD Founder and Executive Director Chair, Pritzker Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Health Youth and Family Peer Support Alliance Anne and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Margaret C. Osterman Professor of Psychiatry Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine

Ms. Smith requested relevant agency members assist in providing the number of youth in residential treatment centers from DCFS and HFS DDD. ISBE statistics were previously provided.

CRSA staff have heard from various treatment providers that Illinois is experiencing a lack of resources due to major staffing crisis in group homes, RTCs and community mental health centers. In addition, we're being told this is a nationwide crisis at this point.

**Interagency CRSA Committee to Address the Lack of Therapeutic Resources:**

It was suggested at the June Authority meeting that a survey monkey document be created to submit to board members, staff and partners and report back at the August Authority meeting regarding this subject. The results are below:

***Q1: As a CRSA board member, do you agree that Illinois' youth with complex behavioral health conditions need timely and appropriate access to vital intensive psychiatric hospitalization and or therapeutic residential treatment delivered by credentialed well trained psychiatric professionals?***

**12 responses = 12 yes**

***Q2: As a CRSA board member, do you agree that Illinois' youth with complex behavioral health conditions need timely and appropriate access to vital intensive psychiatric hospitalization and or therapeutic residential treatment delivered by credentialed well trained psychiatric professionals?***

**12 responses = 12 yes**

***Q3: Would you be willing to sit on an intergovernmental CRSA committee to explore this problem and to propose solutions?***

**9 yes**

Members, partners and staff who voiced an interest to be on subcommittee: Michelle Churchey-Mims, Robert Bloom, Michelle Scott-Terven, Carie Johnstone, Andrew Beaty, Kathy Briseno, Neal Takiff, Matt George, Alicia Ozier, Abbey Storey, Nancy Aguirre.

Ms. Leah Guffey, CRSA office manager will be sending an email out to board members to coordinate a time that works for everyone.

**Discussion with Senator Villa:** Operations Manager/Legislative Liaison Lynn Lowder arranged and attended a meeting with Senator Villa, her legislative Aid, Kate Peterson, CRSA board member Mr. Neal Takiff J.D., and CRSA Director Deb Smith on July 13<sup>th</sup> regarding filing the CRSA amendment as originally written as well as CRSA's ideas pertaining to the revival of at least one state operated Children's Psychiatric Hospital (SOF) and one state operated residential

treatment center (SOF RTC). She affirmed that she would sponsor the CRSA legislation amendment as written. She voiced an interest in language regarding the creation of a single state operated children's hospital and a SOF, and a SOF RTC for minors.

Mr. Takiff and Ms. Smith will start work on drafting language to support this initiative. The Senator agreed to arrange a meeting with Missouri's SOF/RTC Hawthorne.

CRSA will also continue to watch JCAR and see if HFS includes the detained youth back into Rule 139 for residential funding.

**Board Bio's:** We will be updating board BIOS We try to do this at least yearly so you will each know the strengths of your fellow board members when forming committees so please send your bio's to Leah if you have not already done so.

#### IV. OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT

##### **Trainings:**

All staff and most board members have completed the required trainings for calendar year 2021. We have until December 31, 2021 to complete all trainings

The required trainings for board members are:

- Ethics Training Program for State Employees and Appointees (Annually)
- Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Training (Annually)
- Open Meetings Act (One time)

Staff have completed all the required trainings for this calendar year. The required trainings for staff are:

- Open Meetings Act (One time)
- Acceptable Use Policy (Annually)
- Ethics (Annually)
- Harassment & Discrimination Prevention (Annually)
- Security Awareness (Annually)

##### **Budget Update:**

FY 21 Final Expenditures totaled \$630,302.46 lapsing \$19,697.54. Our FY 22 Appropriation remained the same as FY 21 at \$650,000. With Ms. Mindy Miller leaving and Ms. Lynn Lowder retiring in December, this will allow for some flexibility in the budget even though CRSA didn't get a funding increase. So at this time we don't anticipate any fiscal concerns.

##### **Legislation:**

Reiterating the Director's report regarding meeting with Senator Villa, In July CRSA had a very productive meeting with Senator Karina Villa, Senator Villa. Senator Villa will file the CRSA amendment closer to Veto Session which is October 19 – 29.

Ms. Lowder also received a request for Representative Jonathon Carroll's office regarding youth

in residential facilities both in-state and out-of-state.

**Appointment Update:**

CRSA still has one Gubernatorial Appointee Vacancy if anyone has any recommendations:

*“Six persons appointed by the Governor for terms of four years. Appointees shall be representative of both the private and public sectors with no more than two of the appointees from the public sector and at least two must be or have been directly involved in provision of service to such individuals. The remaining appointee shall be or have been a parent of an individual with a behavior disorder or severe emotional disturbance.”*

**V. OFFICE MANAGER REPORT**

Office Manager, Ms. Guffey thanked the board for their kind words and the warm welcome to CRSA. She stated that it was hard to believe 3 months had passed already since her hire. The office is moving timekeeping to an electronic based system to align with ISBE timekeeping practices. She is also working closely with the Division of Information and Technology (DOIT) who built the Client Entry and Data Retrieval (CEDAR) database to create electronic surveys to send CRSA clients. Ms. Guffey is finalizing the updates to the Authority Membership list. She requested board members to please make sure to send any updates they may have.

**VI. CHANGING LIVES**

CRSA regional coordinator Mr. Robert Watts reported on a resource barrier and CRSA's successful coordination of service delivery to a CRSA involved youth.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

A. The following four policies were submitted for board review which will require a second vote:

- Bereavement Leave
- Personal Days
- Sick Time
- Work Schedule

**MOTION:** Mr. Neal Takiff moved and Dr. Robert Bloom seconded that the revised policies be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

B. **State Agency Alternate Appointment:** Ms. Kathy Ward with DHS/DDD was appointed as the alternate appointment.

**MOTION:** Mr. Neal Takiff moved and Dr. Robert Bloom seconded that Ms. Kathy Ward be appointed as the State Agency Alternate for the Executive Committee Officers be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Interagency Subcommittee: this item was covered under the Director's Report.

## IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee: Meeting was cancelled for August.

## X. AGENCY REPORTS

**Illinois State Board of Education:** Ms. Sherry Bochenek reported:

*COVID Pandemic:* The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has fully adopted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools released on July 9, 2021. Additional guidance and support pertaining to this guidance for the 2021-22 school year is provided in a Frequently Asked Questions document, available at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE-IDPH-School-FAQs-20210809.pdf>, and ISBE and IDPH's joint Revised Public Health Guidance for Schools Part 5, available at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Updated-Public-Health-School-Guidance.pdf>. Submission to ISBE of any questions or concerns regarding this guidance are requested to be sent to the established inbox of [COVID19@isbe.net](mailto:COVID19@isbe.net)

*Legislation:* ISBE has posted a guidance document on Public Act 102-0172 (House Bill 40) and Public Act 102-0173 (House Bill 2748), signed into law on July 28, 2021 by Governor JB Pritzker, available on the Special Education homepage and the Special Education Laws, Regulations, and Guidance page, accessible directly at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/FAQ-HB-40-HB-2748.pdf>. Questions about this document may be sent to [ISBESpecEd@isbe.net](mailto:ISBESpecEd@isbe.net).

*Project Updates:* The web address to access a revised tool to search for approved nonpublic special education private facilities when considering the placement of students with disabilities is now available at <https://apps.isbe.net/pfsearch/>. ISBE has also developed a webinar, accessible at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/1504003679821401089>, to demonstrate some of the new features of the revised Private Facility Search Tool, such as help description text and the implementation of three "snapshot buttons."

**Department of Juvenile Justice:** Mark Smith reported there is a state mandate for mandatory vaccination for employees that work in congregate care impacts IDJJ as well as DOC. I believe IDJJ's rate of vaccination is fairly high so that should not have a big impact there. The deadline for those vaccinations are October 4, 2021. What happens to those that choose to not get the vaccination is still be determined through negotiations with the Union. In regard to IDJJ's transformational model, there is a new unit being developed that will be called the Victims Services unit. This unit will provide services to victims' families as well as working with the youth that

caused the harm. We are looking for agencies or groups that have expertise in this area in the central and southern part of the State. Any information on resources such as that is appreciated.

**Department of Children and Family Services:** Alicia Ozier reported as the Department continues to struggle with finding psychiatric hospital beds, we are looking for equitable solutions that improve accessing treatment for our youth in care. We would like to ask for a place on the upcoming agenda to present the issue to the committee.

**DHS, Division of Mental Health:** Dr. Constance Williams reported the Division of Mental Health has begun the 2022 FY thoroughly immersed in beginning the programs that have been funded for this fiscal year. We continue our planning for the implementation of the 988 number. This new 988 dialing code will be for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and is supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). It will be used nationally beginning in July, 2022.

**DHS, Division of Rehabilitation Services:** Ms. Michelle Scott-Terven reported DRS staff continue to work primarily remotely, although outreach activities are increasing, and staff are now meeting with Vocational Rehabilitation customers in the community. HB 2748 was signed, which: Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Provides that if a student turns 22 during the time in which the student's in-person instruction is suspended for a period of 3 months or more during the school year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, then the student is eligible for special education services through the end of the following school year (rather than being eligible for such services only until the day before the student's 22nd birthday). Effective immediately. We are working in conjunction with ISBE and local school districts to ensure that these students/customers are able to receive services appropriately. Some may have previously transferred to adult services and have decided to return to school, which involves collaboration with service providers.

**DHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities:** Kathy Ward reported Our independent service coordination agencies provide a number of services to persons with I/DD including case management for all participants in our three Home and Community Based waiver programs. Effective July 1, 2021 these staff resumed in person visitation for folks served in children's home based, children's residential and our adult program. These visits had been conducted remotely since the onset of COVID. While the Division's providers have been struggling with staffing issues for some time, we have recently begun to hear a lot on this issue from our children's group home provide

**DHS, Division of Family and Community Services:** Nathan Roth reported he had talked briefly on the issues that our CCBYS providers are having keeping staff and filling open positions especially during this last year of Covid 19. As Matt had mentioned, it has become increasingly difficult to be competitive with salaries between youth care positions and outside positions. As to our approach with COVID-19, our providers have drafted program plans to combat and protect staff and youth when doing casework and it has been effective to date so at this time we are not mandating anything like masks or shots to the youth intervention providers.

**XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**XII. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Matt George stated that it is our duty across the state to take care of the youth and families of our respective communities. We as agencies, whether it is state or private, need to form an even stronger bond in partnering to help Illinois youth. This means that some of us may have to look at our businesses and change the way we do business at times, be creative, and know that at times we may have to make tough decisions. We have to lead, we have to collaborate and not just say it.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *Dr. Robert Bloom moved and Ms. Carie Johnstone seconded that the Authority meeting be adjourned at 10:35 am. The motion carried unanimously.*